



**Universal Service Fund
Non-Profit Access Grant Program
Docket 5-NF-2019**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Current as of: March 11, 2019

The purpose of this document is to collect questions from interested parties specific to the Non-Profit Access Grant Program, and to provide answers in a public forum to promote transparency in the application process.

- 1. May a non-profit, § 501(c)(3) organization submit an application on behalf of a consortium?**
 - A. Nonprofit organizations may submit an application on behalf of a consortium of partners, some of whom may be public or private, for-profit entities. Wis. Admin. Code §§ PSC 160.02(23), 160.125(2)(c)1. Nonprofit organizations acting as the primary application are assumed to act as the fiscal agent in this scenario.
- 2. What is the maximum or minimum award for which an application may be submitted?**
 - A. Applicants may submit funding requests from \$1 to \$500,000. Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(2)(f). The total award fund is \$500,000 and the Commission endeavors to make awards that are geographically and programmatically diverse, providing a broad range of access to telecommunications. Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(2)(d).
- 3. Does an applicant need to own the building for which it seeks to upgrade wiring to improve telecommunications access?**
 - A. Applicants do not need to own the building to request funding to upgrade wiring. Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(2)(c).



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- 4. If a § 501(c)(3) applies on behalf of a consortium, may they provide the commitment for match funding or are consortium members obligated to provide the match funding commitment?**
- A. The matching dollars commitment may be provided by the applicant, a consortium member, or partner as long as it meets the match requirements outlined in the Grant Application Guidelines and Forms (Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(e)):
- Applicants are required to provide at least 25% matching funds toward the total project cost (a three-dollar-for-one-dollar match).
 - Matching funds may not be items purchased with USF grant dollars from prior years, nor may the in-kind match items be used to meet the grant match requirement for more than one USF grant cycle.
 - Matching funds may not be used to meet the grant match requirement for other, non-USF grant applications.
 - Any non-USF funding sources, including federal, state, and private foundations, may be used to meet the matching requirement.
 - Matching funds must relate to the proposed project and must be itemized on the Budget Summary Form.
 - Documentation that matching funds are committed must be provided with the application, or prior to release of any funding. If the source is the applicant, a statement of commitment of matching funds or documentation of in-kind funds must be provided with the application or prior to release of any funding.

Questions may be submitted via email, telephone or mail to:

Holly O'Higgins, USF Director
Public Service Commission
4822 Madison Yards Way
North Tower, 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53705
Phone: 608-267-9486
Fax: 608-266-3957
Email: holly.ohiggins@wisconsin.gov
Web: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/NonProfitGrants.aspx>